

United States Mint, Philadelphia, Penn.,

ASSAY DEPARTMENT,

February 21, 1870.

Hon. A. S. Snowden

Superintendent &c &c

Sir

The Asst. Assayer
has completed an examination
(Chemical) of the 3 cent counterfeit,
and finds them composed of
copper, nickel, and zinc; say
Copper 65, nickel 20, zinc 15 per cent.
This is quite different from the
legal alloy, copper 75, nickel 25.
No doubt the zinc is used to
bring down the melting-point,

and thus to facilitate the working. It does not materially change the tint, although it is a true "German silver," such as is used in the inferior coins of Switzerland. It is not softer or more ductile than our binary alloy.

The 3-cent is one of our most artistic coins, & it was hoped that this would form a protection. To some extent it does; but the making of ~~die~~ fac-simile dies from the coin, is embarrassing. You observe however, that the counterfeits have a second-hand look; the beaded border is defective,

the cheek of the face is not well rounded, and the word Liberty is almost wanting. Generally, their dies are not correctly posed, so as to show right on turning the coin. - But the public will be apt to take them without hesitation, and this calls for the best preventive, the vigilance of detective officers.

Very resp'y

W E DuBois
Assayer

Please let me have two more pieces, for future comparison.

196 1/2

W. E. DuBois
Assayed
Feb 21/80

Report Examina-
tion and assay
of spurious 3¢
nickel coins.

Recd. 21st Feby 1880

RG104 E-1 Box 120

Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia
Assay Department

February 21, 1880

Hon. A. L. Snowden
Superintendent, etc., etc.

Sir:

The assistant Assayer has completed an examination (chemical) of the 3 cent counterfeits and finds them composed of copper, nickel, and zinc; say copper 65, nickel 20, zinc 15 percent. This is quite different from the legal alloy, copper 75, nickel 25. No doubt the zinc is used to bring down the melting point, and thus to facilitate the working. It does not materially change the tint, although it is a true "German Silver," such as is used in the inferior coins of Switzerland. It is not softer or more ductile than our binary alloy.

The 3-cent is one of our most artistic coins, and it was hoped that this would form a protection. To some extent it does; but the making of facsimile dies from the coins, is embarrassing. You observe, however, that the counterfeits have a second-hand look; the beaded border is defective, the cheek of the fact is not well rounded, and the word LIBERTY is almost wanting. Generally, their dies are not correctly posed, so as they show right, on turning the coin. But the public will be apt to take them without hesitation, and this calls for the best preventive, the vigilance of detective officers.

Very Respectfully,
W. E. DuBois, Assayer

[P.S.] Please let me have two more pieces, for future comparison.

[Abstract on reverse]
196-1/2

W. E. DuBois
Assayer
Feb 21/80

Reports examination and assay of spurious 3¢ nickel coins.

Rec'd 21st Feb'y 1880